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**HOUSE BILL 564**

**46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2003**

**INTRODUCED BY**

George J. Hanosh

**AN ACT**

**RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLES; PROVIDING AN ARMED FORCES VETERAN WITH A ONE-TIME WAIVER OF THE FEE FOR A VETERAN'S SPECIAL REGISTRATION PLATE AND OF THE MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION FEE; AMENDING SECTIONS OF THE MOTOR VEHICLE CODE.**

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:**

**Section 1. Section 66-3-412.1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2001, Chapter 243, Section 1) is amended to read:**

**"66-3-412.1. SPECIAL MOTORCYCLE REGISTRATION PLATES FOR ARMED FORCES VETERANS. - -**

**A. The department shall issue distinctive motorcycle registration plates indicating that the recipient is a veteran of the armed forces of the United States, as defined in Section 28-13-7 NMSA 1978, or is retired from the national guard or military reserves, if that person submits proof**

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1 satisfactory to the department of honorable discharge from the  
2 armed forces or of retirement from the national guard or  
3 military reserves.

4 B. For a fee of seven dollars (\$7.00), which shall  
5 be in addition to the regular motorcycle registration fees, any  
6 motorcycle owner who is a veteran of the armed forces of the  
7 United States or is retired from the national guard or military  
8 reserves may apply for the issuance of a special motorcycle  
9 registration plate as defined in Subsection A of this section.  
10 No two owners shall be issued identically lettered or numbered  
11 plates.

12 C. An owner shall make a new application and pay a  
13 new fee each year he desires to obtain a special motorcycle  
14 registration plate. He will have first priority on that plate  
15 for each subsequent year that he makes a timely and appropriate  
16 application.

17 D. A one-time waiver of the fee imposed pursuant to  
18 Subsection B of this section shall be given to an armed forces  
19 veteran.

20 [~~D.~~] E. Each armed forces veteran may elect to  
21 receive a veteran-designation decal to be placed across the top  
22 of the special motorcycle registration plate, centered above  
23 the registration number. Replacement or different veteran-  
24 designation decals shall be available for purchase from the  
25 department at a reasonable charge to be set by the secretary.

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1 The department shall furnish the following veteran-designation  
2 decals with the armed forces veteran motorcycle registration  
3 plate to a:

- 4 (1) medal of honor recipient;
- 5 (2) silver star recipient;
- 6 (3) bronze star recipient;
- 7 (4) navy cross recipient;
- 8 (5) distinguished service cross recipient;
- 9 (6) air force cross recipient;
- 10 (7) ex-prisoner of war;
- 11 (8) disabled veteran;
- 12 (9) purple heart veteran;
- 13 (10) atomic veteran;
- 14 (11) Pearl Harbor survivor;
- 15 (12) Navajo code talker;
- 16 (13) Vietnam veteran;
- 17 (14) Korean veteran;
- 18 (15) disabled Korean veteran;
- 19 (16) World War II veteran;
- 20 (17) World War I veteran;
- 21 (18) Grenada veteran;
- 22 (19) Panama veteran; or
- 23 (20) Desert Storm veteran.

24 [E.] E. The revenue from the fee imposed pursuant  
25 to Subsection B of this section shall be retained by the

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1 department and is appropriated to the department for the  
2 manufacture and issuance of the special motorcycle registration  
3 plates for armed forces veterans. "

4 Section 2. Section 66-3-419 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1990,  
5 Chapter 46, Section 2, as amended) is amended to read:

6 "66-3-419. SPECIAL REGISTRATION PLATES FOR ARMED FORCES  
7 VETERANS. --

8 A. The department shall issue distinctive  
9 registration plates indicating that the recipient is a veteran  
10 of the armed forces of the United States, as defined in Section  
11 28-13-7 NMSA 1978, or is retired from the national guard or  
12 military reserves, if that person submits proof satisfactory to  
13 the department of honorable discharge from the armed forces or  
14 of retirement from the national guard or military reserves.

15 B. For a fee of fifteen dollars (\$15.00), which  
16 shall be in addition to the regular motor vehicle registration  
17 fees, any motor vehicle owner who is a veteran of the armed  
18 forces of the United States or is retired from the national  
19 guard or military reserves may apply for the issuance of a  
20 special registration plate as defined in Subsection A of this  
21 section. No two owners shall be issued identically lettered or  
22 numbered plates.

23 C. The fifteen-dollar (\$15.00) fee provided in  
24 Subsection B of this section shall be waived for each  
25 registration period in which a validating sticker is issued

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1 under the provisions of Section 66-3-17 NMSA 1978, in lieu of  
2 the issuance of a special armed forces veteran plate.

3 D. A one-time waiver of the fee imposed pursuant to  
4 Subsection B of this section shall be given to an armed forces  
5 veteran.

6 [~~D.~~] E. Each armed forces veteran may elect to  
7 receive a veteran-designation decal to be placed across the top  
8 of the plate, centered above the registration number.  
9 Replacement or different veteran-designation decals shall be  
10 available for purchase from the department at a reasonable  
11 charge to be set by the secretary. The department shall  
12 furnish the following veteran-designation decals with the armed  
13 forces veteran plate to a:

- 14 (1) medal of honor recipient;
- 15 (2) silver star recipient;
- 16 (3) bronze star recipient;
- 17 (4) navy cross recipient;
- 18 (5) distinguished service cross recipient;
- 19 (6) air force cross recipient;
- 20 (7) ex-prisoner of war;
- 21 (8) disabled veteran;
- 22 (9) purple heart veteran;
- 23 (10) atomic veteran;
- 24 (11) Pearl Harbor survivor;
- 25 (12) Navajo code talker;

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- 1 (13) Vietnam veteran;
- 2 (14) Korean veteran;
- 3 (15) disabled Korean veteran;
- 4 (16) World War II veteran;
- 5 (17) World War I veteran;
- 6 (18) Grenada veteran;
- 7 (19) Panama veteran; or
- 8 (20) Desert Storm veteran.

9 [E.] F. The revenue from the special registration  
10 plates for the armed forces veterans fee imposed by Subsection  
11 B of this section shall be distributed as follows:

12 (1) seven dollars (\$7.00) of the fee collected  
13 for each registration plate shall be retained by the department  
14 and is appropriated to the department for the manufacture and  
15 issuance of the registration plates; and

16 (2) eight dollars (\$8.00) of the fee collected  
17 for each registration plate shall be transferred pursuant to  
18 the provisions of Subsection [F] G of this section.

19 [F.] G. There is created in the state treasury the  
20 "armed forces veterans license fund". A portion of the fee  
21 collected for each special registration plate for armed forces  
22 veterans, as provided in Subsection [E] F of this section,  
23 shall be transferred to the state treasurer for the credit of  
24 the fund. Expenditures from the fund shall be made on vouchers  
25 issued and signed by the director of veterans' affairs upon

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1 warrants drawn by the department of finance and administration  
2 for the purpose of expanding services to rural areas of the  
3 state, including Native American communities and senior citizen  
4 centers. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at  
5 the end of any fiscal year in the armed forces veterans license  
6 fund shall not revert to the general fund."

7 Section 3. Section 66-6-7 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1978,  
8 Chapter 35, Section 342, as amended) is amended to read:

9 "66-6-7. EXEMPTIONS. --

10 A. Every person who, by the terms and provisions of  
11 Section 7-37-5 NMSA 1978, is entitled to a veteran exemption  
12 and who does not have sufficient real or personal property to  
13 claim the full exemption under that section may be eligible to  
14 pay motor vehicle registration fees at two-thirds the rates  
15 charged on vehicles [~~which~~] that the veteran owns. The person  
16 claiming a reduced motor vehicle registration fee shall make an  
17 affidavit that in any claim of a veteran exemption thereafter  
18 during such year, he will set forth the amount of reductions so  
19 received which shall reduce the amount of benefits received  
20 from the real or personal property tax exemption to that  
21 extent. [~~No~~] A person shall not receive any reductions of  
22 registration fees in a greater sum during any one year than an  
23 amount equal to the property tax imposed on two thousand  
24 dollars (\$2,000) of net taxable value of property in the school  
25 district in which he resides.

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B. A one-time waiver of a motor vehicle registration fee shall be given to an armed forces veteran.

~~[B.]~~ C. The director shall certify to the proper county assessor the amount of reduction received under the provisions of this section by any person, and the assessor shall note the reduction on his valuation records. "

Section 4. EFFECTIVE DATE. --The effective date of the provisions of this act is July 1, 2003.